

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32. *(Canceled)*

33. *(Currently Amended)* A preform assembly that includes:
a preform; and
an attachment object, said attachment object having a circumferentially
continuous or circumferentially split ring in abutting external engagement with a portion of said
preform in such a way that interference between said ring and said portion of said preform
prevents dislodgement or removal of said attachment object, wherein said preform assembly is
adapted to be received in a blow mold and blow molded into a container, and ~~The preform~~
~~assembly set forth in claim 24~~ wherein said attachment object is selected from the group
consisting of a handle, a label, and a jacket surrounding a body portion of the preform.

34. *(New)* A preform assembly comprising:
a preform; and
an attachment object having:
a circumferentially continuous, or circumferentially split, ring in abutting
external engagement with a portion of said preform in such a way that interference between said

ring and said portion of said preform prevents dislodgement or removal of said handle; and
a handle extension projecting from said ring and extending away from said preform, wherein said preform assembly is adapted to be received in a blow mold and blow molded into a container.

35. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 34, wherein said ring is in surface press fit engagement with an external surface of said preform.

36. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 34, wherein said ring is disposed between two or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform.

37. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 36, wherein the two or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform comprise
a radially outwardly projecting circumferential flange; and
an external protrusion axially spaced from said flange, and wherein the circumferentially continuous, or circumferentially split, ring is captured between said protrusion and said flange.

38. *(New)* The finish set forth in claim 37, wherein said protrusion is selected from the group consisting of an annular retention bead and an array of circumferentially spaced

retention gussets.

39. *(New)* A preform assembly comprising:
 a preform; and
 a label attachment removably secured to an expansible attachment ring which is in abutting external engagement with a portion of said preform in such a way that interference between said ring and said portion of said preform prevents dislodgement or removal of said ring, wherein said preform assembly is adapted to be received in a blow mold and blow molded into a container.

40. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 39, wherein said attachment ring is in surface press fit engagement with an external surface of said preform.

41. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 39, wherein said attachment ring is disposed between two or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform.

42. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 41, wherein the two or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform comprise
 a radially outwardly projecting circumferential flange; and
 an external protrusion axially spaced from said flange, and wherein the expansible

attachment ring is captured between said protrusion and said flange.

43. *(New)* The finish set forth in claim 42, wherein said protrusion is selected from the group consisting of an annular retention bead and an array of circumferentially spaced retention gussets.

44. *(New)* A preform assembly comprising:
a preform; and
an attachment object, the attachment object being a jacket surrounding a body portion of the preform, said jacket having an annular attachment ring in abutting external engagement with a portion of said preform in such a way that interference between said ring and said portion of said preform prevents dislodgement or removal of said jacket, wherein said preform assembly is adapted to be received in a blow mold and blow molded into a container.

45. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 44, wherein said attachment ring is in surface press fit engagement with an external surface of said preform.

46. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 44, wherein said attachment ring is disposed between two or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform.

47. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 46, wherein the two or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform comprise

 a radially outwardly projecting circumferential flange; and

 an external protrusion axially spaced from said flange, and wherein the annular attachment ring is captured between said protrusion and said flange.

48. *(New)* The finish set forth in claim 47, wherein said protrusion is selected from the group consisting of an annular retention bead and an array of circumferentially spaced retention gussets.